

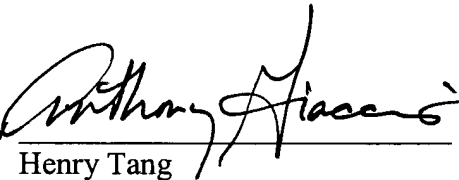
Claims 22-29 are pending. Claims 32-38 have been canceled without prejudice to the prosecution of this subject matter in separate applications.

The Examiner issued an election/restriction requirement against pending claims 22-29 and 32-38 in this application as being drawn to two separately patentable inventions. Specifically, according to the Examiner, claims 22-29 are drawn to a medical article (Group I) and claims 32-38 are drawn to a method of making a medical article (Group II). In response, applicants respectfully elect to prosecute claims 22-29 in this application.

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims 22-29.

Respectfully submitted,

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